The Following Items Shall be Procured on the Basis of Samples Approved by Purchaser/Mutually Agreed Specifications

1. Khes
2. Bed Covers
3. Counter Pane
4. Furnishing
5. Chaddar
6. Durrets/Jamakkalam
7. Bashta Cloth
8. Lowreed Pick Cloth
9. Silk Sarees
10. Shawls, Mufflars, Pankhis
11. Woollen Tweed

Change in Status of India Reconstruction Bank of India

4581. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Indian Reconstruction Bank of India into a limited company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). As announced in the Finance Minister's speech on the Budget for 1996-97, Government propose to transform the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) into a full fledged all purpose development finance institution.

Collection of Duties from Tea Gardens in Assam

4582. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue collected as duties from the tea gardens of Assam by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken development/welfare works for these tea gardens;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the estimates available with Tea Board, revenue collected by the Central Government from tea gardens in Assam as cess on production of tea during past 3 years has been as follows:-

Year	(Rs. lakhs) Cess collected
1993	614
1994	598
1995	597

(b) to (d). Tea Board has been operating a number of developmental schemes. Under these schemes financial assistance by way of long term loan, capital subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loans, and grants-in-aid are provided for developmental activities like extension planting, new planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling, irrigation and drainage, modernisation of tea factories etc. Funds for these activities are met by the Tea Board out of the sanctioned plan budget. Tea Board also implements labour welfare schemes in the State which inter-alia include providing grant to the wards of the tea garden workers for pursuing studies above the primary level and also providing financial assistance to educational institutions, hospitals etc. for construction of health centres, extension of educational and vocational training and specialised treatment facilities for the benefit of the tea garden workers and their families.

Postings of Vocational Course Employees in G.I.C.

4583. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vocational course employees of GIC absorbed during 1996 in each of the four subsidiaries of the corporation;

(b) the number of postings made by each of the four companies of the GIC, Station-wise; and

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to postings of such candidates?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign investment ceiling

4584. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the investment ceiling on Foreign Institutional Investors; and